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UNCLAS KINSHASA 001179

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM/AFR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: 2004 AMBASSADOR'S FUND FOR REFUGEES

REF: STATE 04483

1. (U) Embassy Kinshasa nominates the following two programs for inclusion in the Ambassador's Fund for Refugees:

COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale)

COOPI is a well-established Italian NGO which has been providing humanitarian assistance in the DRC since the 1970's. COOPI's proposal consists of buying medicines necessary to provide health care to Congolese refugees returning to Equateur Province from The Republic of Congo (ROC). The project seeks funding for the area of Libenge, in the district of South Ubangi. UNHCR estimates that many of the 80,000 Congolese refugees that remain in ROC will start repatriation later in 2004. However, there is almost no infrastructure in place to receive them. In this context, COOPI's project will serve to prepare urgently needed medical assistance for returning refugees in a region that has been largely ignored by international NGO's. Specific information on this project:

- COOPI estimates that this project will benefit up to 4,000 refugees in the Libenge health area, including 2000 returning from the Molange Camp.
- COOPI is requesting \$20,000.00 of which \$16,820 will be used to buy medicines and other medical supplies. The remaining \$3,180 will be used for the transport of these medical supplies.
- COOPI already has the health centers and medical personnel to provide health care to returning refugees.
- COOPI estimates that it will take two months to accomplish this project.

Doctors in Catastrophe (DOC)

DOC is an international NGO which has provided health care assistance to refugees and local Congolese in North/South Kivu for many years. DOC's proposal consists of rehabilitating the Kalungu Health Center (physical infrastructure as well as medical equipment and supplies) located 55 Kms from Goma, on the road to Bukavu. The Kivus have a substantial number of Rwandan refugees as well as internally displaced people in serious need of medical assistance. Recent fighting in Bukavu has only aggravated the already dire humanitarian situation. This project will seek to assist Rwandan refugees that come from the forest prior to repatriation to Rwanda. This refugee population is typically afflicted by illnesses that reflect their displacement, respiratory infections, gastro-enteritis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. By providing health care prior to repatriation, this project will allow refugees to return to their country in a more dignified and stable situation. Specific information on this project:

- DOC estimates that up to 18,500 people in the Kalungu health area will benefit from this project.
- DOC is requesting \$19,965.00 of which \$5,600.00 will be used for construction costs, \$ 5,400.00 for transport of logistics and medical equipment, \$2,650.00 for supplies and medical equipment, \$1,800.00 for an incinerator, \$1,800.00 for diesel for vehicles and a boat and \$ 900.00 for other miscellaneous costs.
- DOC will be contributing \$25,500.00 to this project and WFP will be contributing food.
- This project is expected to last three months.

HOOKS